

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

August 5, 2002

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Frederick J. Felton
Assistant City Manager

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check)

	Presentation
	Proclamation/Certificate
	Appointment
	Public Hearing
	Historic District
	Consent Item
X	Ordinance
	Resolution
X	Policy Discussion
	Work Session Discussion Item
	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	6/17/02
Advertised	7/03/02
Hearing Date	7/15/02
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 17 of the City Code Entitled "Personnel", Article I Entitled "In General", Section 17-4 so as to allow the Mayor and Members of the City Council to Join or Become Members of any Group Medical and Dental Plan Offered to Classified Employees of the City Provided the Subscriber Pays Full Costs of Coverage

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:

A number of cities including Rockville, Bowie, and College Park offer healthcare benefits to their elected officials in one form or another.

While Section 63 of the City Charter states that the Mayor and City Council may participate in the City's healthcare program, the City's Personnel Ordinance is silent on this issue.

The proposed amendment would allow the Mayor and City Council to participate in the City's group medical plan; however, they would be required to pay 100% of the cost.

For your review I have attached a memorandum from the City Manager on this issue.

The public hearing on this ordinance was held on July 15, 2002. There was no public testimony concerning the proposal, and there has been no public comment subsequent to the hearing.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

The record closed on July 25, 2002. Staff recommends the Mayor and City Council vote to adopt the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 17 OF THE CITY CODE ENTITLED "PERSONNEL", ARTICLE I ENTITLED "IN GENERAL", SECTION 17-4 SO AS TO ALLOW THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO JOIN OR BECOME MEMBERS OF ANY GROUP MEDICAL AND DENTAL PLAN OFFERED TO CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY PROVIDED THE SUBSCRIBER PAYS FULL COSTS OF COVERAGE.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Gaithersburg, in public meeting assembled that Chapter 17, of the City Code, Article I, Section 17-4, Subsection (a) and (b) thereof are hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 17-4. Medical, hospitalization, dental and other insurance benefits.

(a) The City may pay or contribute to the cost of group hospitalization and medical plans for all classified employees. Coverage may be secured for dependents of eligible employees on a family plan basis, in which case, the City will pay a portion thereof as determined by resolution of the City Council; and payments shall be deducted from the employee's compensation for the remaining amount. The Mayor and members of the City Council may elect to join or become members of any group medical plan offered to classified employee's of the City on an individual or family plan basis provided that the subscriber pays the full cost of coverage without contribution or reimbursement from the City.

b) The City may pay the cost of a group dental health plan for all individual classified employees. Coverage may be secured for the dependents of eligible employees by deducting the difference between the single rate and the family plan rate or the combined single and sponsored individual rate from the employees' compensation. The Mayor and members of the City Council may elect to join or become members of any group dental health plan offered to classified employees or on individual or family plan basis provided that the subscriber pays the full cost of coverage without contribution or reimbursement from the City.

ADOPTED the 5th day of August, 2002 by the City Council of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

SIDNEY KATZ, MAYOR and
President of the Council

DELIVERED to the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland, this 5th day of August, 2002. APPROVED by the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg, this 5th day of August, 2002.

Sidney A. Katz, Mayor and
President of the Council

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinance as adopted by the City Council of Gaithersburg, in public meeting assembled, on the 5th day of August, 2002 and that the same was approved by the Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg on the 5th day of August, 2002. This Ordinance will become effective on the 26th day of August, 2002.

David B. Humpton, City Manager

MEMORANDUM TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: City Manager David B. Humpton *DB*

DATE: May 2, 2002

SUBJECT: Mayor & City Council Participation in Health & Dental Insurance Coverage

A member of the City Council has recently expressed an interest in participating in the City's Health Care plan. Section 63 of the City Charter states that the Mayor and City Council may participate in a hospitalization program established for City officers and employees (see attached). The City Attorney has reviewed this matter and has indicated that if you concur, a resolution should be approved by the Mayor and City Council authorizing participation in the plan and setting forth details related thereto.

Listed below are examples of benefits offered to elected officials in Gaithersburg and in other area jurisdictions:

Gaithersburg	Health/dental currently not offered to M&C; M&C are eligible for life insurance, 457 Deferred Compensation (no employer match), and long-term care insurance.
Rockville	Health/dental offered to M&C; Rockville pays the same cost for their M&C as it does for full-time employees, i.e. 80% of the lowest HMO Plan for single coverage, two person or family coverage. When out of office, covered under COBRA for 18 months.
Bowie	Health/dental offered to M&C; elected officials must pay full cost. When out of office, covered under COBRA for 18 months.
College Park	Health/dental offered to M&C; elected officials must pay full cost. When out of office, covered under COBRA for 18 months.
Frederick	Mayor is full-time and eligible for all benefits. Aldermen are part-time; not eligible for health/dental coverage but are eligible for 457 Deferred Compensation (no employer match), flexible spending, supplemental life insurance, and supplemental long-term disability.
Takoma Park	Health/dental not offered to M&C at present. Currently researching what other municipalities are offering.

Please advise staff if you would like to pursue this matter further.

GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. 301-670-2544

This is to certify that the annexed advertisement of:

The Notice of Public Hearing For Ordinance Amend Chapter 17

was published in the Gaithersburg Gazette Newspapers, a weekly newspaper published in Montgomery County, Maryland. The ad appeared once a week for (1) week(s) before the 4th day of July, 2002.

Gaithersburg Publishing Company

Bonnie Geiger

Copy of ad attached



BONNIE GEIGER
Notary Public, State of Maryland
County of Frederick
My Commission Expires September 7, 2005

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Gaithersburg will hold a public hearing on:

**MONDAY
JULY 15, 2002
AT 7:30 P.M.**

or as soon thereafter as it can be heard in the Council Chambers at City Chambers at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland on:

An ordinance to Amend Chapter 17 of the City Code Entitled "Personnel", Article 1, Entitled "In General", Section 17-4 so as to Allow the Mayor and Members of the City Council to Join or Become Members of any Group Medical and Dental Plan Offered to Classified Employees of the City Provided the Subscriber Pays Full Costs of Coverage.

Further information may be obtained from the City Manager's Office at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

David B. Humpton
City Manager
1t 7/03/2002 (G)